



**Saint  
Francis  
Community Services**

Serving Children and Families Since 1945

**2010 LEGISLATIVE SESSION~**

**Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance  
HB 2546 – Insurance Reimbursement for Certain Services**

**2010 POLICY AGENDA~**

**SERVING A RURAL  
POPULATION**

*The needs, perspectives and culture of our rural and frontier population shall be reflected in decisions and policies that shape services to children and families at all levels.*

**MENTAL HEALTH AND  
BEHAVIORAL SERVICES**

*All children in the child welfare system will have access to quality, and timely mental health and behavioral health services designed to sustain and reunite families.*

**MANAGING POSITIVE  
SYSTEMS CHANGE**

*System changes that impact children and families must be adequately funded, accompanied by plans to build system capacity, and have a process for monitoring and evaluating performance against outcomes.*

For more information contact  
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*The system serving children and families will*

**Saint Francis Community Services** has a rich history of serving troubled youths and their families over 60 years. We provide a range of services from family preservation, reintegration/foster care, drug and alcohol services, foster care homes, residential services and community supports. Through those programs we serve over 2000 children and families, in 53 rural and frontier counties, with 12 offices and over 500 full and part time employees. *We support the passage of HB 2546 because it would expand the pool of qualified licensed professionals available to provide an important service in the steps leading to permanency for children in our care.*

For over three years Saint Francis has participated in a Rural Committee of Mental Health Services for Children and Families. Through that participation we have become increasingly concerned about the availability of professionals to provide timely and quality child welfare and mental health services in Kansas. In fact that is one of the barriers identified by families and helping professionals working with children in the Child in Need of Care System. This bill would allow us to tap into *current qualified resources* to perform critical services in the permanency continuum under the guidance of the state and its regulatory body. At Saint Francis we believe that finding solutions to gaps in human resources, whom the courts recognize, takes on greater urgency because of the rural and frontier nature of our service area. In addition, the economic climate has begun to have an additional impact on connecting with available resources.

We believe this bill gives recognition to the changing role of qualified professionals available to serve the children and families and at the same time creates a greater degree of choice for our client population.

We look forward to working with you on its successful passage.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Advocacy Coordinator, Saint Francis Community Services